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ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

New England Women's Club.

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REPORT

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NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S CLUB

AT

FREEMAN PLACE CHAPEL, BOSTON,

MAY 31, 1873.

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REPORT.

The Annual Meeting of the New England Women's Club was held at Freeman-place Chapel, May 31, at 11, A.M.

The meeting was opened by the following address by the President, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.

My dear Friends and Sisters of the Club, — At the end of a week crowded with occasions of effort and interest, a week which began for some of us with a Women's Suffrage Convention, and whose round includes the first Convention of Women Preachers ever held in this or any other country, you will not expect a long address from your President, especially as many others are to speak after me. I shall limit myself, therefore, to a few opening remarks, introducing more extended reports which will be offered to you by your several committees. And first, I must speak of the past year as having been most harmonious and happy within the confines of the Club. I was not with you at your last anniversary; but from the opening session of the Club in October last, in which you so cordially welcomed my return among you, until this time, I cannot remember the smallest cloud on the face of our serenity. I think I may say that no coercion is used to secure this creditable result. Differences of opinion are recognized and expressed among us; and the ventilation of all discontent is expressly invited. Yet I know of no such discontent, and am accustomed to see around me, at all our meetings, faces friendly to me and to each other. I think here that the saying often applied elsewhere, that "Practice makes perfect," may hold good.

Nothing educates people for working together so well as the fact of their working together. We surely find that we understand each other better as we go on from year to year. Nor this alone: I can say that I understand womankind and humankind better in consequence of this pleasant discipline of the Club, in which our only concern with offence or provocation is, how not to do it.

I suppose, that, next in importance to the principle of association, is that of the division of labor. In this view I think that the assignment of our Club work to its various committees is an important and happy feature. Responsibility is thus divided, and does not weigh heavily upon any one individual. The Committee of Art and Literature, of Work, the Committee on Discussions, and the Business Committee, — all of them hold their meetings, and perform their functions. The result is, that magically one good thing after another is promised on the bulletin, and performed in the parlors, with no anxiety or distress to the august body at large.

I have been asked to prepare a statement to be read at this time concerning other associations of women throughout the United States. This it has been impossible for me to do, under the pressure of many cares, and of much preparation for other occasions. I can mention, however, a ladies' club formed somewhat upon our own model, at Grand Rapids, of which Mrs. Dr. Stone is president. Mrs. Doggett of Chicago has written me of a club or literary circle of ladies in that place, of which I believe her to be the centre. Our friend and fellow-member, Mrs. Brown, has told us of a ladies' club formed at Michigan University, in whose beginning she took part, and whose objects are much akin to our own. The New-York Sorosis is well known to you, and so is the Brooklyn Women's Club, under the presidency of Mrs. Field. I have received a letter lately in behalf of the Women's Club in Orange, N.J.; and I will tell you that the three last-named associations are making preparations to observe the 2d of June, our Women's Peace Day, by appropriate exercises.

The library associations throughout the West promise to become nuclei from which clubs, somewhat like our own, may be developed. I shall endeavor to collect and present to the Club facts concerning them and other associations among women. I will here only further mention a club of young ladies which meets every Saturday during the winter season, hearing a lecture on one Saturday, and discussing the theme of the lecture on the next Saturday. This club, having broken up for the summer, has resolved itself into study groups under various heads. Among these an art group visits galleries and studios, holds readings on art, and proposes to sketch from nature; some read Dante in Italian, some in Parsons's translation, while a merry cookery group meet from time to time to hold a feast of their own composition.

While we are speaking of associations of women, I may say that from yesterday's Convention of Women Preachers, I hope that a new and extended organization will spring, and that I design to organize a system of correspondence in connection with our Peace Festival, which will, I hope, grow into a wide-spread league of peace and good-fellowship.

The attitude of our Club to enterprises external to itself is, I am happy to say, at once firm and friendly. We have thus far avoided all confusion with undertakings in which we do not sympathize, and have yet constantly extended the circle of our friendship and interest. We salute the kindergarten, we smile upon the peace enterprise; we touch the free religionists with one hand, and the women's conference with the other; and yet our Club is a place in which no one of us needs to be harnessed into an unwelcome task or alien interest.

Finally I say, my dear friends, God bless the Club! It has been both home and school to us children of a larger growth. May its record grow and brighten from year to year, and may we hand down the excellent institution unimpaired to our children! And crying a blessing upon the Club, I will go still farther, and say, God save the whole

commonwealth of women, in Massachusetts and out of it! God save us from misrepresentation, from mal-education, from deformity of person, and worse deformity of mind; and may each day bring us nearer to divine truth, and to the law of perfect liberty! — so prays your President.

The Treasurer's report was then read by Mrs. H. W. Sewall.

H. W. Sewall, *Treasurer.*

By Cash Received.

For annual fees,	$1,540.00
" Rent for parlor and chamber,	304.50
" Sale of tickets,	36.00
" Teas and Lunches,	144.98
" Loan of Chairs,	7.35
" Stationery,	2.32
Cash in Treasury, May 1, 1872,	429.08
Total,	$2,464.23

By Cash Paid.

For Rent,	$1,630.00
" Attendant's Wages,	316.00
" Fuel,	65.72
" Gas,	60.00
" Printing and Advertising,	10.25
" Provisions,	142.77
" Help,	28.20
" Furniture,	78.06
" Repairs,	4.75
" Kerosene,	2.75
" Stationery,	7.45
" Sundries,	2.69
Total,	$2,348.64
Balance,	$115.59

The report of the Committee on *Art and Literature* was then read by Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney.

The several committees have this year been more carefully separated in the subjects of discussion than ever before; and, as the Committee on Work have had an admirable series of papers on philanthropic subjects, and that on Education have

taken charge of their appropriate themes, the Committee on Art and Literature have confined their entertainments more strictly to literary and artistic papers, which should tend to increase our aesthetic culture and intellectual enjoyment. They have, as usual, been very successful in securing the assistance of able speakers, very rarely meeting any refusal to speak to the Club on the desired topic. The arrangements of the Committee have been very flexible, so that they could take advantage of the presence of literary friends from a distance. Although the regular season usually closes with the Annual Meeting, so many members were desirous of hearing Mr. John Weiss's admirable paper on the marriage relation, that he consented to give it to us on the evening of June 30.

The series of entertainments for the winter was opened on Monday, Oct. 21, by a reception to the President, Mrs. Howe, to welcome her on her return from her visit to San Domingo and England. The evening was full of social enjoyment; the brief addresses of Mrs. Howe and others furnishing occasion for lively conversation; and the slight refreshment provided by the Business Committee added to the ease and pleasure of the occasion.

On Monday, Nov. 4, Mr. Alfred Lewis addressed the Club on the position of women throughout the world. His views, which were the result of long residence in India and other distant countries, excited much interest, and called forth a lively discussion.

Nov. 23, Mr. James T. Fields gave his personal reminiscences of Tennyson, to a large and delighted audience.

By some sense of fitness not clearly explained, the appointment of the lunches has generally fallen to this committee. I suppose it is a recognition of the truth of Dr. Johnson's saying, "If you want to see the best literary society in London, give good dinners." At any rate, the Business Committee gave us, on Nov. 30, an excellent lunch after the reading, by Rev. Robert Collyer, of his delightful lecture on "Our Folks and Other Folks." We hope this may become an Annual Festival.

On Monday, Dec. 2, Mr. James Freeman Clarke helped us to spend the evening with Shakspeare, illustrating his own views by readings from the sonnets, and a considerable portion of the "Merchant of Venice."

Dec. 23, we gave up the afternoon to the Committee on Education, who wished to use it for a discussion; and the afternoon of the holiday week, Dec. 30, was appropriately used for a merry Christmas entertainment.

On Friday, Jan. 3, we had an unusually agreeable reception for Miss Maria Mitchell of Vassar College. The very stormy weather did not prevent the attendance of many of her warm friends and admirers; and the conversation, opened by a few words from Mrs. Howe on the popular uses of science, was of unusual interest. It is true that the conversation, with fatal facility, glided into a comparison of masculine and feminine intellect; but it was so courteously and pleasantly carried on, that the harmony of feeling was not interrupted, nor the digestion of the accompanying lunch disturbed.

On Jan. 6, Dr. O. W. Holmes read his paper on "English Versification," which was as bright and witty as his own verses.

On Monday, Jan. 17, the Club furnished its own entertainment in a Poetical Picnic, which was thoroughly enjoyable. It was voted, that the Poetical Picnic should become an annual occasion; and all members of the Club are invited to prepare themselves to furnish their quota of the nectar and ambrosia of Parnassus for the next occasion.

On Monday, Feb. 3, Mr. Charles C. Perkins read a very instructive and agreeable paper on Early Italian Art.

On Monday, Feb. 24, Miss Augusta R. Curtis gave us a sketch of the life and works of Albert Dürer, illustrating it with numerous photographs, which, with the vivid descriptions, brought the original works very clearly before the numerous listeners. It was a thoroughly artistic and delightful occasion.

On March 3, Mr. Henry James read his paper on Emer-

son. A violent snow-storm prevented a full attendance; but those who braved the storm were amply repaid by the exquisite delicacy and beauty of Mr. James's delineation of the poet-philosopher whom we all revere so deeply.

On Thursday, March 5, we had an extra lunch for Miss Emily Faithfull; which gave us the desired opportunity to meet this brave worker, and to hear from her own lips an account of her labors in England, in the employment of women.

March 24, Rev. Lummie G. Ware took us under his guidance to Genoa and Pisa, and made us see through his eyes the beauty and grandeur of those far-famed cities, while the little touches of personal incident gave variety and entertainment to the journey.

April 7, Rev. Mr. Waterston gave a lecture on Art, which he kindly illustrated with engravings and pictures. A very stormy evening prevented a large attendance.

On Monday, April 28, Mrs. Cheney read for the third time her lecture on "Color," which the Club were kind enough to listen to with exemplary patience.

On Saturday, March 29, an opportunity was given to Mrs. Stenhouse to give the ladies an account of her experience among the Mormons, which proved to be highly interesting.

On May 5, Dr. B. Joy Jeffries kindly consented to repeat to us his lecture on "Defects of Vision," particularly as concerning artists and works of art. He requested, however, that the place of the lecture might be changed to the hall of the Technological Institute, where he could have the necessary apparatus for illustration. This was accordingly done; and the audience were entertained by the curious facts presented, and illustrated by the aid of diagrams and the magic-lantern. We learned a wholesome distrust of our own optics, and were led to remember the admonition in the old story: —

"When next you talk of what you view,
Think others see as well as you;
Nor wonder if you find that none
Prefers your eysight to his own."

On Saturday, May 24, a lunch to Miss Carpenter gave us the much-desired opportunity of greeting this well-known philanthropist, whose name has long been dear and familiar to us, and who established a new and warm bond of sympathy, by telling us that the first impulse to her life of devoted work came from one of our own revered townsmen, — the late Dr. Tuckermann (an Hon. member of our Club).

May 26. This afternoon was given up to the Education Committee, to give them an opportunity to present an interesting paper, which was deferred from another occasion.

The committee would recommend a similar course for the ensuing year, and that the Committee on Art and Literature should endeavor, especially, to promote a knowledge and love of Art and Literature, by which life may become so much refined and ennobled, and a healthful counterpoise be given to our life of feverish activity and work.

Miss Abby W. May read the Report of the Committee on *Work*.

In behalf of the Work Committee, I have the pleasure of presenting to you to-day their fifth annual report; and lest some one, not knowing the precise field allotted to this Committee, may be led to expect the accomplishment of some good or great things, let me begin by saying that the Committee was constituted not to do work, but to take charge of bringing forward for discussion any practical matters upon which the members might desire to gain light. One afternoon in each month has been given to us from the beginning of the Club's existence; and a large variety of practical questions have been considered.

Homes for the poor, as they are and as they might be, were talked of at a meeting in May, 1871 and a plan for improving them was the result. This plan was put in operation by the Boston Co-operative Building Company, which has already done some good things, and has others as good in contemplation.

The Horticultural School for women here found its origin.

and, in its short life, served an excellent purpose. It ceased to be, because Harvard College opened its Agricultural School to women, — a larger result than we had dared to expect. But few women will probably desire to avail themselves of opportunities in that direction at present; but those few deserve, and can now have, the best training. The former directors of the school hold a small fund, which was given to help women desirous of getting such education, but unable to pay for it. The interest of this fund they desire to appropriate each year.

These two practical results will show that our discussions have not ended in our own enlightenment or amusement merely. We do gather from them much valuable information, which must make us wiser and abler for ourselves. That we do not keep it to ourselves is the best proof of our right to gain it. It was not the number, nor the value, of the Scripture talents that gave their owners the right of possession: it was the use made of them.

Our programme for the year just closed occupied itself with the question of women's fitness for entering practical life, presented from several points of view. At our first meeting, Miss Kellogg, in an able manner, set before us the views of several of the most eminent scientific men on the question of the relative capacity of women for the highest education. The extracts Miss Kellogg gave proved that there is a good deal of difference of opinion among authorities; but, whatever may be the conclusion to-day of one or another man, the great desideratum is, that the matter should be frankly discussed. Truth will inevitably result sooner or later; and that is what we chiefly desire, even when the lesson of patience is bitterly hard. This valuable *resumé* of the opinions of others was followed by a highly interesting paper from Dr. Edward H. Clarke, upon the health of women, as affecting steady, persistent mental application. Dr. Clarke — the skilful physician, the jealous guardian of health, to whose notice comes daily most distressing knowledge of the suffering caused by a lack of it, especially

among New-England women — made a strong plea for saving women from the over-pressure and false methods of living, under which so many men, as well as women, break down. The sad fact of great physical weakness among our women is beyond dispute. In that respect, there is no room for difference of opinion; though we thought Dr. Clarke did not sufficiently recognize the gain which has been made in some respects within the last few years. But the discussion which followed the paper showed that the majority could not agree with Dr. Clarke, in charging much of the misery upon high education, or the co-education of the sexes. There are many other deep and clear causes for it; and too little education — as carried up to any high plane — has there been to charge it with so wide-spread an evil. And again, the statistics which have come to notice are at least doubtful proofs of such statements. On the contrary, they seem to prove that mental training is not only good but requisite for physical health; and why should it not be so? God has made women, as men, compound creatures, with a five-fold nature; and it cannot be that either side, physical, mental, moral, affectional, or spiritual, can suffer loss without injury to the whole. It is only in the harmonious development of all that each finds its own perfection. The perfect woman must have a sound body, a vigorous mind, a conscience quick, and a heart large enough and true enough to warm and sweeten the whole. Give her the thorough training of all these, and crown her with a spirit seeking the highest, and you have a woman such as we conceive God meant her to be. Who shall dare to say that mental culture must be kept on a poorer plane than the very best there is, because of danger to a woman's body, — a danger different in its nature from that which men so often find in unwise mental effort? No one would plead for folly, as applied to the training of either sex; but that many women are feeble seems a poor reason for depriving those who are strong of any advantage that the world can afford them. Does he want it? is the question we ask in relation to men. Does she want it? would seem

to be the only fair one to ask of the other sex. For both sexes, lack of health must often be practically an insurmountable barrier. Why cannot all interested in this question unite in holding up a high standard of health, in themselves and for others, since no other obstacle can long prevent women from having all the educational advantages they can use?

The afternoon next following was devoted to a paper from Dr. Mary J. Safford, upon health, as affecting practical work. Dr. Safford, from personal experience, was able to show that dress is the occasion, both directly and indirectly, of much of the inability — where any exists — of the sex to engage in practical work; for not only are women's garments cumbersome, but they are in various respects positively harmful, and so diminish the health which active living requires. The verdict of that afternoon would unquestionably have been, that work, well-chosen and wisely performed, takes a good measure of health, but gives back far more than it takes away.

A month later Capt. Cole, of the truant-service, told us of his work among the most unfortunate children in Boston. It is good to know that the number of these children is comparatively small in our city, where education is free, and so very much is done to help those who are least able to help themselves to become good and useful citizens. But his story made our hearts ache, to think there should be one such case; and the saddest side of it is, that there is little possibility of making these things better, until the laws shall be changed. It seems almost hard-hearted to express the wish, that some strong hand might be empowered to sever the relation of parent and child; and yet, so long as brutal fathers and mothers have a right over their own children, the poor little ones must suffer, perhaps perish, in spite of the warm desire of the best and wisest to rescue them. Possibly good may come to some of these poor children from our afternoon's talk, and such plan for action as was formed from it; but we hardly dare to hope for it.

In March, Mrs. E. N. L. Walton of Deerfield gave us a carefully considered paper upon the "Industrial Training of Women." Mrs. Walton has had many advantages for studying this question; and her testimony was clear in favor of a change in our common-school education, which should give good opportunity for practical instruction, and which yet need not diminish what is valuable of intellectual culture. If, as is said, there are some superfluous studies that might be cut off or reduced, and if improvements might be made in teaching all branches, and so time be gained for laying a foundation in the more practical concerns of life, it would seem as if few persons could be found to object to the change. At any rate, the subject has proved to be one of universal interest, and will be agitated until a good solution of the problem has been found. It becomes us all, therefore, to seek light upon it.

On the 21st of April, Miss Elizabeth Stuart Phelps read to us a paper upon "Dress Reform," which was listened to by an audience by no means limited to the size of our rooms: it overflowed all bounds. The paper has since been printed in "The Independent," and is now about to appear in pamphlet; so all our members may read it for themselves. An animated discussion followed the reading of the paper, which resulted in the appointment of a committee to consider whether the Club should take action in the matter. This committee has undertaken correspondence, and intends to report to you before long the results of its thought and action. If the Club can, in any manner, help to lift this question to a higher plane, it will be a blessing to women everywhere. The trouble is universal; but, on all sides, there is a demand for better things, which is a promise that they will come.

On Monday, May 19, our series of afternoons ended with an exceedingly interesting talk from Prof. Agassiz, upon our common-school system. The news of Lady Lyell's death had just reached this country; and the professor paid a very warm tribute to her, as a highly-educated and very in-

fluential woman: indeed, he considers her a model for us all. And he would give to every woman the opportunity for as high an education as Lady Lyell had gained, and had wisely used. Remembering what he himself has done, and is doing for women, in the Cambridge Museum, and in the new Anderson School at Penikese Island, whose foundations his own hands are so broadly laying, we felt especially honored by his presence, and glad to have him put the finishing touch to a winter's work that rests in our minds as one full of pleasure and of profit.

The Report of the Committee on *Education* was then presented by Miss Lucia M. Peabody.

The report of this committee, if limited to the general meetings of the Club, would be very short, not from the nature of the subjects falling within its province, but because it is only called upon to fill the fifth Mondays of the month; and the number of these occurring in a season is naturally small.

The committee have sometimes been tempted to wish that they might intercalate a few days in a month, and so make an occasional extra fifth Monday, when topics have pressed upon them for consideration; but, as the reports given this morning show, some of these matters have been taken up by other committees, and so the temptation to work confusion with the calendar has been diminished.

This subject of education is one with which the very air seems full: it meets us at every turn; whatever point, at least in all questions of social life or reform, we may start from, we drift almost inevitably into this. "Only get the children and the young people started right," we constantly say, speaking of one or another matter, "and there is hope; but it is useless to try to set the elders in new paths." So, on one point, all are agreed, That education is of supreme importance, especially in a republic. The fate of our country depends on what is done for our children. But after this point of unanimity of opinion, there is perhaps no other.

On every topic where it is possible for different views to be held, every possible variety is held. The what, the how, the when, and the where are alike called in question and eagerly debated.

How early shall we begin with the little ones? What system of early training is the best? Shall they be allowed to learn even the alphabet? Shall our girls and boys go to school together? Is co-education, if allowable at a very early period, to be desired afterwards? Is there sex in mind? Shall girls and young women pursue the same course as boys and young men; or, if a different one, where shall the divergence begin? The alphabet being common property, and suited to either, how early does the distinction show itself, and where do the paths, as indicated by nature, separate? If girls are to pursue a different course, what is the proper one for them: what *may* they learn, — what is *tabooed?*

If freedom is to be allowed here, may girls study as boys do, or are supposed to, with steady and persistent effort; or does Nature indicate some other method? Should they have separate schools and colleges, if indeed the question of higher education is answered in their favor? or may they have their share in the institutions the State has founded or nurtured?

Is the elective system of studies the true one? or does experience prove, what many assert *a priori*, that a wise and steady guidance and control are safer for most?

Should our public schools try to furnish industrial training?

Do the children nows tudy too much, or too little? and what ought they to study? What is the true idea of primary education? What is really the higher education? Should physical training occupy the first place, or be only secondarily considered?

What can be done to save the neglected children, who yet have parents to claim authority over them, from Satan's schools, which open for them on every hand?

These are a few, and but a few, though perhaps among the most important, of the questions presenting themselves for earnest and thoughtful attention; and many of them press urgently for some solution: and on every one of these, and many more, there is the widest diversity of opinion.

How many of these large matters your committee could present in the course of one morning and two afternoon sessions may be easily imagined; but evidently a large field lies open before them, and one not to be exhausted this year or next. In addition, their attention is claimed by every new movement they may hear of in education, whether made here or elsewhere; and such of these as seem sufficiently important, they will seek from time to time to present to you.

For the past season the following is the record. The purpose of the committee generally has been to have the chosen subject presented for discussion by the Club itself; a brief paper serving to introduce it, and to hold the conversation to some definite point. Accordingly, in the afternoon assigned them in December, a short paper on education, in its broad and general aspects, was read by our president, Mrs. Howe; and an interesting conversation followed, which served to show how much room there is for diversity of opinion.

On March 31, our friend and sister, Miss Elizabeth P. Peabody, promised us a paper; but, owing to some misunderstanding about the hour, she did not appear at the time expected. Mrs. Stenhouse, who was fortunately present, kindly consented to fill the gap thus left, and gave some details of her experience among the Mormons, which were new to most of us, and very painfully interesting. Her account explained how it was possible for a woman of culture and refinement, like herself, to have been drawn into this community; but made it equally clear that only great ignorance could enable such a system to have any lasting hold upon its followers, at least upon the women. And education here, as in so many other cases, is the best means of breaking the shameful bonds of this slavery, and destroying their false system of religion — so called.

On Saturday, April 19, a lunch was given to Miss Anna C. Brackett, whose name stands high among the educators of our land. After the lunch, which was pleasant and social as these gatherings always are, Miss Brackett read a very thoughtful and valuable essay on the "Education of Girls." How much of a large experience was combined with profound study and thought in this paper, those who had the pleasure of hearing it could best appreciate. It had the effect of calling forth an annimated discussion, — the best compliment which could be paid it, — arousing, not opposition, but an earnest consideration of the points presented, which lasted till Miss Brackett was obliged to leave.

As the fifth Monday of March had been diverted from its intended purpose, last Monday, the 26th of May, through the kindness of the Committee on Art and Literature, was yielded to us; and on that afternoon Miss E. P. Peabody read us the promised paper. The views presented by her on education differed in many respects materially from those most commonly expressed among us, but were perhaps on that account only the more valuable, as they certainly were extremely interesting. In the conversation which ensued, some interesting information was given about the new Boston University, which commences its career next autumn on so liberal a plan, that we cannot but hope that its success may fully justify the wisdom of its course.

In the report given at the last annual meeting, two matters were spoken of as under consideration by this committee of which you may like some further account. One was the formation of a class for girls desirous of fitting for college, whether the doors of our colleges should be open to them or not. Quite a number of meetings were held, and an invitation issued asking those interested to communicate with the committee. A considerable number of responses were received during the summer, showing that the plan proposed aroused a good deal of interest; but, upon mature thought, it was deemed best not to attempt to form a new class of this character, which must necessarily be quite expensive,

particularly as it was found that there were schools already existing in the city which would offer some at least of the advantages desired. The Chauncy Hall School, whose reputation has been long established, has, with generous courage, ventured upon the experiment, accounted by many of our teachers so dangerous, at least in a pecuniary point of view, and thrown its doors open to girls as freely as to boys, offering them the opportunity of obtaining the same thorough fitting for college, or of pursuing any special branch or branches taught there. We believe it has, thus far, found no occasion to regret its liberality; and no disadvantages have arisen from bringing the boys and girls together, while the girls who have entered have acquitted themselves well.

The Latin School in Roxbury, a long-established and well-known institution, has, we understand, this year taken the same onward step.

And while these older schools have offered thus freely the opportunity for obtaining a classical education, a school for girls, of more recent date, but taught by ladies of experience, well and favorably known among us, — Miss Tilden and Mrs. Badger, proposed this year to add to the ordinary course a class for young ladies desiring to carry on their education to a higher point, whether in a classical or other direction. The intention in this case also, it was understood, was to furnish those desiring it a thorough training in all branches necessary to fit them for entering Harvard, or any other college whose gates might be thrown open to them. The new Boston University proves to be the first taking this liberal stand; and we believe that before long women will present themselves there for entrance.

With these opportunities already existing, your committee did not think it advisable to attempt the formation of a new class; but they did not consider their time and efforts wasted, since they served in several instances as the means of communication to make these schools known to those who were seeking such advantages as they offered, and who otherwise would probably never have heard of them.

The second matter, that of procuring the election of women on our school committees, has engaged our serious attention through this year: we have now passed it on into the hands of a larger committee; and we hope, that, at some future time, we may record the successful result of their action. Several of the towns in the State, and some in our immediate neighborhood, have tried this experiment with such happy consequences, that we hope Boston will not be long in following their example; for, to quote with Mr. Higginson from the report of one school committee, "As this place offers neither honor nor profit, we do not see why it should not be filled by a woman;" but as it is, or should be, a post of important service, we believe there are many women who would honorably and profitably fill it. And when the time comes, as before long it doubtless will, that women here are called to perform this service, we hope that they will feel this a duty not to be refused through timidity, or reluctance to take an unaccustomed position, but will hold themselves ready to give the best they have in them to this most important work.

The report of the *Discussion* Committee, prepared by Mrs. KENDALL, was then read.

The Discussion Committee report, that on Monday, Nov. 11, on which day the first discussion of the season should have taken place, there was no meeting of the Club, in consequence of the fire of the two previous days, which of course absorbed the interests and thoughts of everybody, to the exclusion of all other topics.

On Monday, Dec. 9, there was a discussion upon "Domestic Service," opened by remarks from Mrs. Woolson, and very fully participated in by the members present, who expressed a desire for further discussion; and Rev. Mary H. Graves was requested to prepare a paper on the subject, to be read at some future meeting.

On Monday Jan 13, the committee gladly availed themselves of the opportunity to listen to a paper from Rev. Celia Burleigh, on "Enchantment." No opportunity for

discussion was given, as the speaker herself proved to be an enchantress, to whose spells all willingly submitted themselves. There followed, however, remarks by Mrs. Howe, and conversation generally.

On the evening of Monday, Feb. 10, the committee substituted for its usual afternoon discussion a lighter entertainment, very kindly furnished by some of the younger members of the Club and their friends, which consisted of readings by Miss Josephine Ellery, and a farce. It was a very successful and refreshing change in the programme.

On Monday, March 10, Rev. Mary H. Graves gave her promised paper on "The Duties of Housekeepers, and the Rights of Servants." The attendance was not so large as usual, on account of a snow-storm in the morning; but there was a very interesting discussion.

On Monday, April 14, Mr. Crane read a paper on "The Relation between Consumers and Producers," treating more particularly of the means of transportation. It was listened to with great interest, and followed by an animated discussion.

May 12, Mrs. Howe read an essay on "Peace," with particular reference to her plan for a peace meeting on June 2. There was a large attendance, and remarks by Miss Peabody and others were listened to with interest.

The committee have appointed a meeting on June 9, to hear the report of the "Dress Committee," which will be the last meeting for the season.

After these Reports were read and accepted, a Nominating Committee was appointed to prepare a list of the names of officers for the ensuing year.

Miss Mary Carpenter of Bristol, Eng., was then elected an honorary member of the Club.

On motion of Mrs. Cheney, the officers of the Club were requested to make arrangements for entering into correspondence with the "Ladies' International Correspondence Association," and to constitute the Club a member of the association, if in their judgment it should seem best. Some remarks

on this association were made by Miss Elizabeth P. Peabody and Mrs. Howe. The motion was laid upon the table till after the choice of officers for the ensuing year, and was referred to them.

In response to invitations extended by the president, general remarks were made by William Lloyd Garrison, Lucy Stone, Ednah D. Cheney, Mrs. Severance, Mrs. Livermore, and others.

The Committee on the Election of Officers reported as follows: for

President.

JULIA WARD HOWE.

Vice-Presidents.

Mrs. Isaac Ames.
" Ednah D. Cheney.
" James F. Clark.
" F. H. Cooke.
" R. W. Emerson.
Miss Lucy Goddard.
" Abby W. May.
" Elizabeth P. Peabody.
Mrs. Josiah Quincy.
" C. M. Severance.
Mrs. R. C. Waterston.

Recording Secretary.

Miss LUCIA M. PEABODY.

Corresponding Secretary.

Miss FANNY L. MACDANIEL.

Treasurer.

Mrs. SAMUEL E. SEWALL.

Directors.

Mrs. S. A. Brown.
" George E. Foster.
" E. H. French.
" E. W. Holmes.
" Joshua Kendall.
" Dio Lewis.
" J. E. Lodge.
" Nina Moore.
" Benjamin Newhall.
Mrs. H. M. Pitman.
" Charles Porter.
Miss C. D. Richards.
Mrs. C. W. Seaver.
" Samuel E. Sewall.
Miss Susan Talbott.
Mrs. G. S. Tolman.
" Samuel Wells.
" J. W. Wolcott.
Mrs. A. G. Woolson.

The above persons were declared duly elected; after which the Club adjourned to their rooms, No. 3 Tremont Place, for a social lunch.

Following the lunch, short addresses were made by Miss Fletcher (Secretary of the Sorosis Club of New York), Mrs. Livermore, Mrs. Elizabeth K. Churchill, and Rev. Mary H. Graves; and recitations of poetry were given by Mrs. Louise Woodworth Foss.

This closed the annual exercises for 1873.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S CLUB.

ARTICLE 1. The name of this association shall be THE NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S CLUB.

ART. 2. The objects of this association are, primarily, to furnish a quiet, central resting-place, and place of meeting in Boston, for the comfort and convenience of its members, and ultimately to become an organized social centre for united thought and action.

ART. 3. The officers of the association are to consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer if needed, Auditor, and a Board of not less than twelve nor more than twenty-five Directors, to be chosen at the annual meeting.

ART. 4. The officers of the association shall be *ex-officio* Directors.

ART. 5. The Board of Directors shall have entire charge of the affairs of the association.

ART. 6. To become a member, it is necessary to be proposed by a member, and accepted by the Board of Directors.

ART. 7. Gentlemen may become associate members.

ART. 8. The fee for membership and associate membership shall be ten dollars annually. The fee for life membership and associate life membership shall be fifty dollars.

ART. 9. Associate members shall be entitled to the privileges of the parlors and *restaurant.*

ART. 10. The Directors have the right of electing honorary members.

ART. 11. The annual meeting shall be held on Saturday

of Anniversary Week, and shall be called by the Secretary, either by individual notification, or by advertising at least a week in advance, in prominent Boston papers.

ART. 12. The financial year shall begin on the 1st of May.

ART. 13. The Board of Directors shall have the right to fill vacancies in their own body.

ART. 14. The Constitution may be amended at any annual or special meeting, by a two-thirds vote of the members present; the proposed amendment having been presented at a previous Directors' meeting, and notice of the intention to amend having been appended to the call of the meeting.

BY-LAWS

OF THE

NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S CLUB.

ARTICLE 1. The Directors shall meet regularly on the first Saturday of each month, at 10.30, A.M., at the Club-rooms.

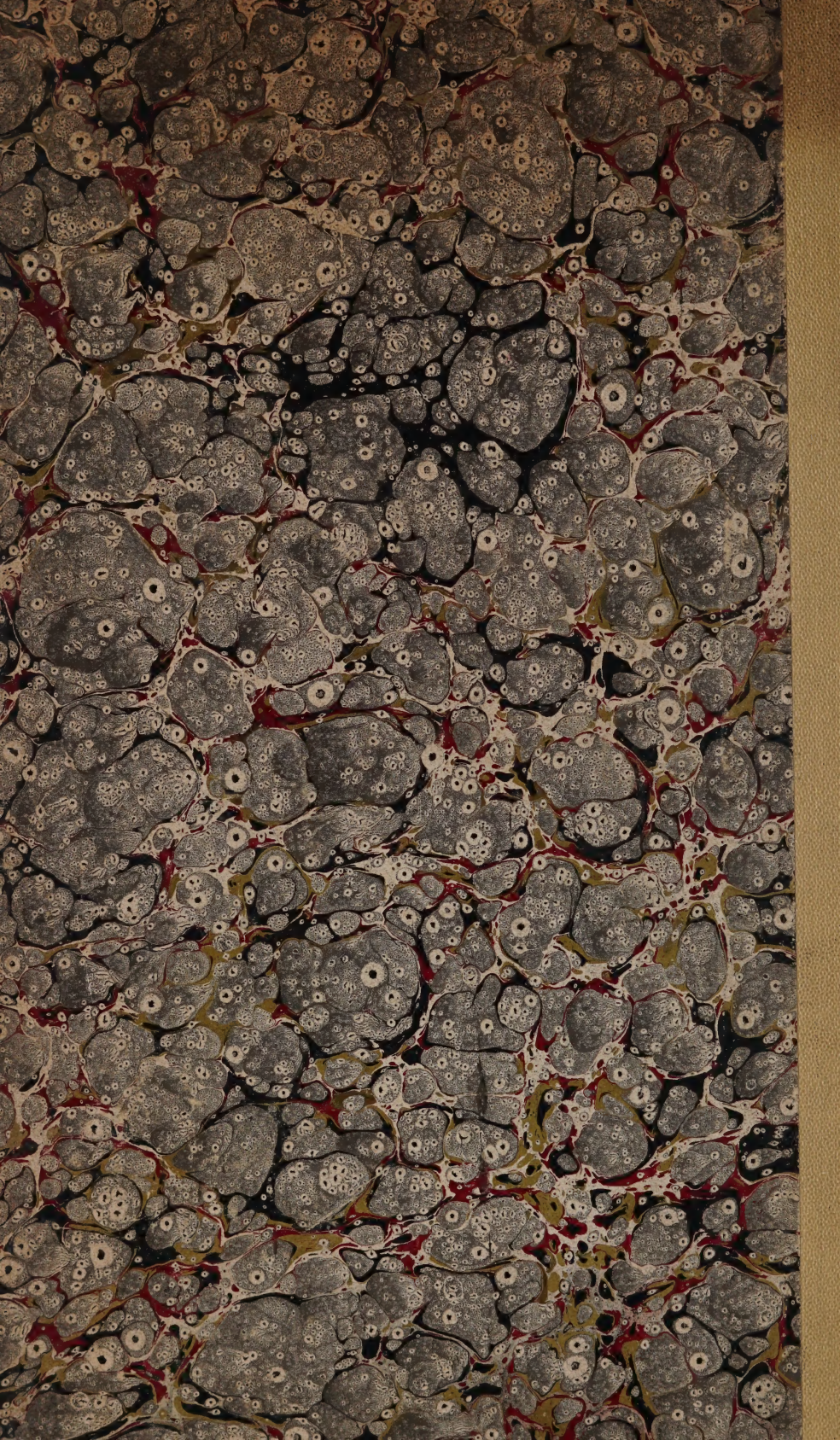
ART. 2. Six shall constitute a quorum.

ART. 3. Special meetings may be called by the President or Secretary, at the request of two or more Directors.

ART. 4. The Secretary shall notify Directors of special meetings, and absent members of adjourned meetings.

ART. 5. No entertainment or meeting shall be held in the general Club-rooms from which any member shall be excluded.

ART. 6. Discussions, meetings, and other entertainments shall be notified by a bulletin in the Club-rooms.

ART. 7. The Club-rooms shall be open for the use of members from 8, A.M. to 10, P.M.

ART. 8. Any member of the Club may be removed by the written request of a majority of the Board, when in their judgment the best interests of the Club require it.